WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A motor damper arranged in a passage in a refrigerator through which cold air flows, comprising:

a frame constituting a part of said passage;

a cold air gate formed at the center of said frame;

a baffle, rotatably secured on a rotation shaft formed on said frame, for opening and closing said cold air gate;

a rotation mechanism for swinging said baffle between open and closed positions of said cold air gate;

said baffle being arranged to enclose a neighboring region by said frame at the position it closes said cold air gate;

said rotation mechanism including a motor arranged outside said frame and in the vicinity of said rotation shaft of said baffle; and

an output shaft of said motor being rotatably secured to said rotation shaft of said baffle.

2. A motor damper according to Claim 1, wherein said output shaft of said motor is attached to said rotation shaft of said baffle via a decelerating gear.

3. A motor damper according to Claim 2, wherein said baffle is rotatable to the position at which said cold air gate completely opens.

4. A motor damper according to Claim 3, wherein said baffle is rotatable by about 90° from the closed position to the open position of said cold air gate.

5. A motor damper according to Claim 1, wherein said motor is a stepping motor.

6. A motor damper according to Claim 1, wherein a tip of said baffle overlaps said frame when said baffle closes said cold air gate, and the tip of said baffle is exposed outside said frame when said baffle opens said cold air gate.

7. A motor damper according to Claim 1, wherein said cold air gate is arranged on said frame in such a way that the position which said baffle closes said cold air gate is slanted with respect to said cold air flow.

8. A motor damper according to Claim 1, comprising two baffles arranged in about the center of said passage in said frame.

9. A motor damper according to Claim 1, wherein said rotation mechanism is comprised of a stepping motor, a pinion fit to an output shaft of said stepping motor, a fan-like gear engaged with said pinion, and a shaft for fitting one end to said fan-like gear and for engaging another end with said baffle.

10. A motor damper according to Claim 9, wherein one end of a spring is attached to said baffle on the side of said cold air gate and another end of said spring is attached to said frame.

11. A motor damper according to Claim 9, wherein said baffle is engaged with said shaft in a manner so as to provide a certain space therebetween.

12. A motor damper according to Claim 9, wherein a magnet is

adhered to one end of said fan-like gear, and in the vicinity of said magnet, a sensor for detecting an approach of said magnet is attached to said frame.

13. A motor damper according to Claim 12, wherein said sensor is a Hall-effect integrated circuit.